Irvine Valley College

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TO: Julianna M. Barnes, Ed.D., Chancellor, and Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: John C. Hernandez, Ph.D., President

DATE: October 15, 2026

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the October 26, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Achieves Record-Breaking Enrollment

IVC has reached a record-breaking fall census enrollment of 16,869 students, surpassing last year's enrollment of 16,469. This is the highest fall enrollment in the College's 47-year history.

IVC Dedicates New Arts Café and Arts Promenade



On September 30, IVC, SOCCCD and community partners came together to officially dedicate the new Arts Café and adjacent Arts Promenade. President Hernandez and Board President Inmon offered welcoming remarks, while student musician Adrian Montoya greeted guests with guitar music as they arrived. The new gathering space brings together café seating, gardens and the arts in a welcoming setting for students and the campus community. The project also advances IVC's sustainability goals, replacing 34,500 square feet of turf with approximately 8,000 native and climate-appropriate plants and more than 100 trees, with an estimated savings of 1.5 million gallons of water each year. View photos here.

IVC Vice President Participates in National Women Warriors Summit



Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald was invited to participate in the Women Warriors Summit, hosted by Wounded Warrior Project in Washington, D.C. The summit brought together more than 100 women veterans from across the nation to discuss issues affecting their health, benefits, transition to civilian life and long-term well-being. As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and higher education leader, Dr. McDonald shared her perspective on the role community colleges play in supporting veterans as they transition to higher education and civilian careers. Her work with student veterans, including the development of integrated mental health and support services, reinforces the importance of understanding the unique experiences and needs of post-9/11 veterans, particularly women. The summit provided an opportunity to connect national research, resources, and advocacy efforts with the work being done at IVC and throughout the South Orange County Community College District. The insights gained will help inform ongoing efforts to strengthen veteran-centered services, promote student success, and ensure that women veterans are represented and supported throughout their educational journeys. Dr. McDonald's participation reflects IVC's commitment to advancing educational opportunities, fostering a sense of belonging, and supporting the academic, personal, and professional success of those who have served our nation.

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IVC Hosts Mid-Semester Recharge for Adult Learners

On October 16, IVC hosted its first Back to College Café, giving adult learners an opportunity to pause midway through the semester, enjoy coffee and refreshments, and connect with fellow students. Attendees learned about campus programs and services and explored practical strategies for balancing college, work, and personal responsibilities. The event created a welcoming environment for students to build community, discover available resources, and recharge as they continued their educational journey. The event featured interactive stations designed to promote reflection, self-care, and connection. Activities included "Let It Go," where students symbolically released personal challenges or barriers; a Play-Doh station to squeeze away stress; a Brain Break Bar to unwind and recharge; and a "Celebrate a Win and Find Support" station to recognize personal accomplishments and identify helpful resources. Together, these activities reinforced the importance of resilience, well-being, and a sense of belonging while empowering adult learners to continue moving forward in their educational journeys.

IVC Joins Global Village Celebration



On Saturday, October 10, IVC was honored to be a patron sponsor and join in Orange County's premier multicultural event, the Irvine Global Village Festival proudly celebrates its 25th Anniversary. This beloved community tradition rooted in culture, connection, and celebration brings the community together to honor the rich traditions, art, music, food, and spirit of cultures from around the world. Families, friends, and neighbors come gather for a day filled with unforgettable performances, international flavors, hands-on cultural experiences, and meaningful moments that reflect the diversity and unity of our community.

IVC Hosts 5th Annual Pathways to Success Fair, Welcoming More Than 500 Students

On October 7, IVC welcomed more than 300 students to its 5th Annual Pathways to Success Fair, hosted by Guided Pathways. The event showcased IVC's 10 Guided Pathways Interest Areas, providing students with opportunities to explore academic programs, discover educational and career pathways, and connect with campus resources to support their success. Faculty, staff, and students came together to highlight the many academic and support services available across campus, helping students make informed decisions about their educational journeys while fostering a stronger sense of belonging within the IVC community. A highlight of the event was the Guided Pathways Stage Showcase, featuring 13 engaging program presentations that brought IVC's academic pathways to life. Showcases included program overviews, interactive skits, hands-on demonstrations, and other activities designed to spark students' curiosity and encourage exploration. Through these experiences, students connected directly with faculty, staff, and fellow students, gained greater awareness of their academic options, and discovered opportunities to become more engaged in IVC's learning community. The fair reinforced IVC's commitment to helping students explore their interests, identify educational pathways, and build meaningful connections that support their academic and career success. View photos here.

Read for Your Rights: Banned Books Week 2026



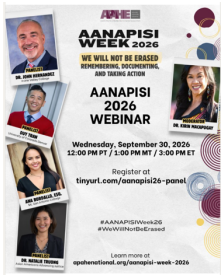
From October 5 to 9, IVC participated in the national Banned Books Week, a movement that defends the freedom to read and raises awareness of ongoing censorship efforts. The Library, in partnership with the School of Humanities and the IVC Book Club, collaborated to host a series of engaging events, including a book binding workshop and the 13th annual Banned Books Read-Out. The week's events underscored the vital role of libraries and education in protecting intellectual freedom and fostering open dialogue. View photos here.

IVC Celebrates Filipino American History Month



Throughout October, IVC celebrated Filipino American History Month (FAHM) with a series of cultural and educational events hosted by ELEVATE AAPI. Students explored Filipino American history, culture and identity through Lumpia & Learn programs featuring Filipina author Michelle Sterling's journey to publication, an introductory Tagalog workshop, and a screening and discussion of *Delano Manongs*, which highlighted the history and contributions of Filipino farmworkers. The monthlong celebration also included Tea Time Talks focused on the cultural significance of the parol and a campuswide celebration featuring cultural performances, traditional Filipino food and interactive booths.

President Hernandez Participates in AANAPISI Panel



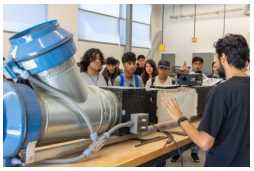
On September 30, to mark AANAPISI Week, President Hernandez joined a panel discussion, *We Will Not Be Erased: Remembering, Documenting, and Taking Action*, highlighting voices and experiences from the AANAPISI community. The discussion explored the impact of recent federal funding cancellations on AANAPISIs and strategies to support student equity, advocacy and institutional resilience. Hernandez joined panelists from the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, University of Colorado Denver, Mt. San Antonio College and Asian Americans Advancing Justice. View YouTube here.

AANAPISI Week



IVC celebrated Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Week Sept. 21-25 with a series of events bringing students and employees together through culture, conversation, food, art and connection. The week featured a Vietnamese 101 language workshop, Tea Time Talks with ELEVATE AAPI, E Hele Mai: Grounded Elsewhere, Rooted Here, a discussion on food and health in Asian cultures, and a Mahjong Club gathering. The college also continued the celebration with a Wellness Wednesday event on Sept. 30, featuring arts and crafts and culturally inspired treats. IVC proudly marked its 10th year as an AANAPISI-designated institution during the 2025-26 academic year.

Manufacturing Day 2026



On October 2, IVC welcomed more than 100 high school students from seven local schools for Manufacturing Day 2026. Students explored pathways in manufacturing, engineering, design and technology through hands-on demonstrations in Design Model Making and Rapid Prototyping, and Engineering and Drafting Technology. The event also highlighted IVC's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program, student research through SPARK (Summer Projects Advancing Research & Knowledge), and an industry and resource fair connecting students with manufacturing professionals. View photos here.

AESL Student Worker Training Day



The Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) English Language Center recently welcomed its student worker team on October 1 for a training and team-building day. With student workers often serving as one of the first points of connection for AESL students, the training focused on student-centered service, confidentiality, technology, teamwork and connecting students with campus resources and support. Faculty and staff from ESL and Student Equity also joined the training to help student workers better understand the services and pathways available to AESL students. The day concluded with team-building activities and a team potluck, reinforcing the importance of connection and collaboration in supporting students.

25 Year Time Capsule on Display at the Library



A new exhibit is on display at the entrance of the library showcasing the contents from the IVC Time Capsule Dedication Ceremony on September 24, 2001. This capsule celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Community Colleges in America with instructions to be opened September 26, 2026. Curated by our Art Gallery specialist, Thuy Tran, the exhibit is organized according to layers of historical context from objects and documents found in the time capsule highlighting what IVC looked like in 2001 through key data points, student highlights, photographs, enrollment, campus educational programs, and more. Take a moment to visit the exhibit and experience a snapshot of student life at IVC within the technological, cultural, and social context of 2001.

2026 Concilio Leadership Symposium



From September 22-24, IVC's Vice President McDonald, Academic Senate President Professor Rebecca Beck and Dean of Counseling Angela Hernandez attended the 2026 Concilio Leadership Symposium in Washington, D.C. Hosted by the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC), the symposium brought together community college leaders from across the country to explore leadership, student success and the future of higher education. This year's symposium marked the 40th anniversary of Concilio and featured national education and community leaders, including former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona and Dr. Lenore P. Rodicio, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. IVC's participation provided an opportunity for college leaders to engage in professional learning, strengthen national connections and bring new ideas and perspectives back to the IVC community. Dean Hernandez completed the yearlong Dr. Ted Martinez Jr. Leadership Fellows program. Professor Beck is starting her participation in the Fellows program. VP McDonald served as a fellowship mentor.

IVC Joins in Celebration of Tustin Unified School District



IVC sponsored a table at the annual Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) Celebration of Schools on September 23 at Foothill High School, highlighting IVC's strong educational partnership with TUSD. The partnership includes California College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment agreements and the Early College program at Beckman High School. During the 2025-26 academic year, TUSD students generated 3,779 enrollments, a 23% increase over the previous year, representing 1,518 unduplicated students and a 94% success rate. President Hernandez was joined by SOCCCD Board President Carolyn Inmon and Board Clerk T.J. Prendergast III. The partnership reflects IVC's commitment to expanding early college opportunities that support student success and strengthening connections throughout the community.

OC AI Workforce Leadership Roundtable

President Hernandez and Vice President Miranda attended the Orange County (OC) AI Workforce Leadership Roundtable on Sept. 22 at the Paradise Cove room at Beall Applied Innovation. The working session brought together regional leaders for a candid conversation about the future of artificial intelligence and its impact on the workforce. Discussion focused on what it would take for OC to become a leading AI talent hub, including the technical and human capabilities an AI-ready workforce will require, the role of K-12 education, community colleges, universities, employers and workforce organizations in building the talent pipeline, and opportunities to better connect industry, education, workforce development and government. The roundtable also explored OC's existing assets and gaps and identified opportunities for regional collaboration, with the goal of developing an ongoing OC AI Talent Strategy.

Creating a Culture of Care Symposium



On September 18, Professor Summer Serpas presented the keynote address titled "Creating a Culture of Care: Supporting the Whole Student in Our Classrooms and on Campus" at Southeastern Louisiana University's (SLU) Destination Get There! A Campuswide Student Support and Advising Symposium. Professor Serpas' participation grew from a connection with SLU faculty at Meauxmentum 4, a statewide gathering of Louisiana's public colleges and universities, in February, where she gave a similar presentation. At that gathering, she worked with the faculty on their proposal for the symposium, which was awarded a $10,000 grant through a Louisiana Board of Regents Shark Tank-style competition.

Fifth Annual Retiree Reunion



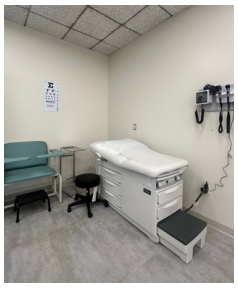
On September 18, the Foundation welcomed more than 50 former faculty, classified professionals, and administrators back to campus for the Fifth Annual Retiree Reunion. The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for retirees to reconnect with longtime colleagues, share memories, and learn about the college's continued growth and commitment to student success. President John Hernandez offered remarks that highlighted the many ways the college is evolving while remaining true to its mission of serving students and the community. Attendees also heard from an IVC Foundation Board Member, who provided information about making a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA. Most importantly, the event celebrated the lasting bonds that connect generations of the IVC community. It was a meaningful reminder of the dedication and contributions of those who helped build the college's legacy and continue to inspire its future. View photos here.

ELL Healthcare Pathways Update



IVC continues to see strong outcomes through its English language learners (ELL) Pharmacy Technician program in partnership with Coastline ROP, which has been running since Spring 2024. At the ELL Healthcare Pathways State Convening on September 17, IVC alumna Aeja Choi was one of four student panelists who spoke to an audience of more than 200 community college professionals, along with California Secretary of Labor Stewart Knox. Choi participated in the Spring 2025 cohort and now works full-time as a compounding pharmacy technician. Choi is one of 170 students who have completed the ELL Pharmacy Technician program. Program outcomes include 94% of pharmacy technician students completing and passing the program, representing 170 students to date. Of those who completed, 95% achieved state licensure, representing 134 students to date. In addition, 67 pharmacy technician students have achieved employment, or 51% of completers, while 57 students have found employment in health care, or 44% of completers. Fifty students have been employed as pharmacy technicians specifically, or 39% of completers, although 50% were offered pharmacy technician jobs. Additionally, 37% of pharmacy technician students registered for credit or short-term vocational courses after completion. One note is that the Spring and Summer 2026 pharmacy technician cohorts were excluded from the employment and licensure percentages because the Spring 2026 students just began receiving their licenses and therefore cannot work as pharmacy technicians yet. Completion numbers include the Spring and Summer 2026 cohorts.

New Medical Assistant Lab Builds a Pathway to Clinical Internships



IVC has completed its new Medical Assistant Lab, a modern, hands-on training space that gives students real clinical experience before they enter the workforce. Martha Payan-Hernandez, Erin Morgan, Jeff Wilson and Savyonne Steindler recently hosted a potential partner in the lab to discuss internship placements for students. The partnership could create a direct pathway from the classroom to clinical careers. The renovation and furnishing of the former classroom was managed by Jhoiey Ramirez of Facilities. The lab was designed to reflect current clinical settings, helping students transition from the classroom to the clinic with confidence. As the partnership takes shape, the facility is becoming a bridge between IVC students and healthcare employers who need skilled professionals. This project is a strong example of what can happen when Facilities, academic leadership and community partners plan with student outcomes in mind.

Women's Volleyball Starts Conference Play 5-0



The IVC women's volleyball team is off to a strong start in Orange Empire Conference play, winning its first five matches and tying for first place with Saddleback after October 2 action. Under second-year head coach Kari Hemmerling, the Lasers recently defeated Riverside, 3-1, at home before sweeping Orange Coast, 3-0, on the road. The team continues conference play October 7 against Golden West at home, followed by away matches at Cypress and Saddleback.

Fiesta Latina en Irvine



IVC participated in the fifth annual Fiesta Latina en Irvine on September 13 at the Great Park, joining community partners in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. IVC connected with local residents and families at the event, sharing information about the college and its programs and services.

IVC Speech Team Kicks Off Competitive Season



To kick off the fall semester, the IVC Speech Team hosted a Speech Showcase on Aug. 20 in the Performing Arts Center. The event was attended by Board of Trustees President Carolyn Inmon and more than 130 IVC students and featured several speeches by members of the talented team. Among the presentations, Student Trustee Eric Shin performed an extemporaneous speech on political polarization. Other performances included a prose interpretation, an impromptu speech and an International Public Debate Association (IPDA) debate. The IVC Speech Team went on to make its competition debut at the 2026 Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensic Association Warm-Up Tournament on Sept. 26-27 at El Camino College. Eighteen colleges from across California participated in the tournament. Twenty-nine IVC students competed, earning 19 awards across nearly all competitive categories, including debate, limited preparation events and oral interpretation of literature.

IVC Team Participates in Collective Equity Impact Institute



IVC recently sent a seven-member, cross-functional team to the 2026 Collective Equity Impact Institute in Anaheim, that included faculty, counselors, administrators and institutional research professionals from across the college. The institute highlighted California Community Colleges' Vision 2030 and featured strands focused on transfer alignment, climate action, workforce development, generative artificial intelligence and institutional equity. The IVC team participated in sessions designed to strengthen collaboration and share strategies that prioritize student needs, student success and equity across the California Community Colleges system. Bringing together colleagues from different areas of the college provided IVC an opportunity to learn together, exchange perspectives and bring back ideas that can inform the campus for continued work to strengthen student pathways, support student success and advance the college's strategic priorities.

Transfer Center Workshops and Labs



The Transfer Center successfully completed its CSU transfer workshops and UC TAG application workshops and labs, providing hands-on support to students navigating the transfer application process. To date, approximately 600 students have participated. UC TAG workshop participation increased from 67 students across six workshops in Fall 2025 to 200 students across seven workshops this fall. An additional 406 students have participated in UC TAG application labs this semester, reflecting strong student engagement with transfer planning and the resources available through the Transfer Center.

Upcoming Events

A Midsummer Night's Dream
October 29, 30, 31

Día De Los Muertos Celebration
October 28

Idea Pitch Competition: Mentor Selection
October 28

The Glass Canvas
October 29- December 12

College Fair
November 3

Annual Real Estate Summit
November 6

IVC Jazz Faculty with Anibal Seminario
November 13

MOVEMENTscape Dance Concert
November 19, 20, 21, 22

Holiday Mingle
December 1

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President

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